

NEWS

VOLUNTEER CENTER OF BERGEN COUNTY, INC.

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Sponsors Sign On for Unique Family Event Registration Now Open for Bergen Bike Tour

Several area corporations have signed on as sponsors of the annual Bergen Bike Tour, which will be held on Sunday, September 27, 2009.

Additional sponsors are welcome for this unique family-oriented event, which is headquartered at Darlington Park in Mahwah, and features cycling routes through some of Bergen County's most scenic areas. Major sponsors of the 2009 Bergen Bike Tour to date include TD bank at the Diamond Sponsor level and the following Platinum level sponsors: Amper, Politziner & Mattia; Apax Parnters; Esai; Jamis Bicycles; Joel Tanis & Sons; Lakeland Bank; Oritani Bank Charitable Foundation; PNC Bank; Sanzari Companies and Wounded Poodle Production. The Kids' Event is once again being sponsored by Ford Motor Company. Gold level sponsors include: Bolkema Fuel Co.; Columbia Bank; Flavor and Fragrance Specialties; Garden State Wiper; Hackensack University Medical Center; Harwood Lloyd; Inserra Supermarkets; Murphy, Miller & Baglieri, LLP; NVE Bank; Prestige Family of Fine Cars; Andrew F. Rubenstein, M.D.; United Water and Withum Smith+Brown. Silver levels sponsors include: : Capital One; Doherty Enterprises; Malesardi, Quackenbush, Swift & Company, LLC; Saddle River Valley Bank and Wachovia Bank, N.A.

Proceeds from the Bike Tour benefit Tomorrows Children's Fund at Hackensack University Medical Center and the Volunteer Center of Bergen County.

"Difficult economic times have really hit these two charities hard," says Phil Murphy, chairman of the event. "The programs and services they provide to children, the elderly,

people with disabilities and families in crisis are in jeopardy, unless we find community minded sponsors, and encourage generous donors to support the efforts of our riders.”

The Bergen Bike Tour will feature 50-, 25- and 10- mile routes for cyclists of every level. Plans are in the works for the special Kid’s Ride, which is a favorite with families, and the fun- filled barbeque and entertainment, which is typically enjoyed by more than 400 participants every year.

Corporate sponsors are needed to offset administrative costs so that the donation pledges received by the individual and team cyclists can go directly to support the programs of Tomorrows Children’s Fund and the Volunteer Center.

“Each year, the Bike Tour turns over an average of over 80% of the event’s proceeds to the Volunteer Center and Tomorrow’s Children. This is a rate that far surpasses many events of this kind, and we are very proud of our philanthropic efficiency. We are optimistic that with corporate and community help and participation, we can exceed that in 2009,” continues Murphy. “Mark your calendars for Sunday September 27th . Check www.bergenbiketour.org for more details on registration.

Tomorrows Children’s Fund was established by loving parents seeking help and relief for their desperately ill children, in association with physicians committed to providing the best possible care. The Fund addresses the critical needs of families facing the anguish of childhood cancer by providing a warm, healthy and loving atmosphere for children in treatment; a wide range of services to relieve emotional and financial stress; state-of-the-art medical care; and funding for research on childhood cancer and serious blood disorders.

The Volunteer Center of Bergen County works with more than 600 public and private non-profit agencies in and near Bergen County that value and need the services of volunteers. The Volunteer Center links individuals, groups, organizations and corporations with rewarding volunteer opportunities that fit their interests, abilities, schedules and locations, while allowing them to make a difference in the community by addressing serious social concerns such as hunger, literacy, poverty, and the needs of children, the elderly and disabled. The Volunteer Center operates a home repair service for the elderly and disabled, which in 2008 served 1,591 clients and performed 3,731 repairs, at no cost to the clients, except for parts used. The Volunteer Center also

sponsors two mentoring programs in which caring adults are friends, role models and mentors to abused children, ,and parents in need of guidance and support. Last year, over 300 children and adults participating in these programs were helped by mentors.

Sponsorship opportunities begin at \$500 and up. Corporate sponsors at the level of \$1,000 or more includes registration of an unlimited number of employees at no extra charge. All riders are expected to enlist support of at least \$100 for individuals or \$200 for families. Prizes will be awarded for top fundraisers.

Registration for the 14th Annual Bergen Bike Tour is now open. Riders can register in one of four ways - 1) Register online at www.bergenbiketour.org; 2) Download and print a registration form at www.bergenbiketour.org and submit by mail; 3) Call 1-877-BER-BIKE; 4) Register at the event on September 27 at Darlington Park. For further information about corporate sponsorship or organizing a group to participate in the Bike Tour, call 877-BER-BIKE, or check out the website at www.bergenbiketour.org

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